JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Concord-Carlisle School Committee Concord School Committee Zoom Meeting June 2, 2020

Present: Wallace Johnston, Chair, CCSC; CSC

David Model, Vice Chair, CCSC Heather Bout, Chair, CSC; CCSC

Courtland Booth, Vice Chair, CSC; CCSC

Cynthia Rainey, CSC, CCSC Eva Mostoufi, CCSC

Present from Administration: Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent of Schools, CPS & CCRSD

Jared Stanton, Director of Finance & Operations, CPS & CCRSD

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The CCSC meeting was called to order by Mr. Johnston at 5:03 PM, noting that it was being recorded on Zoom and the CSC meeting was then called to order by Ms. Bout, also noting that it was being recorded. Roll call attendance was taken: Johnston, aye; Rainey, aye; Bout, aye; Model, aye; Bout, aye; Bout, aye; Booth, aye.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

# III. READING OF THE MINUTES

A. Open Session Jt. Meeting – 5/19/20. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for both CSC and CCSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for both CSC and CCSC, to accept the joint meeting meetings from 5/19/20. The motion passed by roll call: Booth, aye (for both); Rainey, aye (for both); Model, aye; Mostoufi, aye; Johnston, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both).

# III. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

#### IV. CHAIRS & LIAISONS REPORT

Mr. Booth stated that, regarding the CMSBC, the draft of the feasibility report recently was made available to the CMSBC. He stated that the CMSBC submitted its comments to the Design Team of SMMA and Hill International and will be seeing the next iteration of the report at the leadership meeting of the CMSBC on Thursday morning.

Mr. Johnston stated that Carlisle would be holding a Town Meeting on June  $20{\rm th}$  and Mr. Model noted that the rain date was June  $27{\rm th}$ .

# V. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Community Use of Fields and Facilities. Dr. Hunter stated that the school campuses were closed down at the early part of April, out of concerns for social distancing. She stated that the use of playground equipment is scheduled for a later phase of the governor's plan, noting that they will remain closed for now. Dr. Hunter noted that Police Chief O'Connor, Health Director Susan Rask and Deputy Town Manager Kate Hodges were included on the call as well. She noted that some of the school campuses have mixed oversite and have town elements included in them.

Ms. Hodges stated that, early on, access was cut off to the White Pond area, noting that there was a lot of misuse of the property. She stated that, as of last Thursday, a plan was made with the Facilities and Parks and Playground team to open up the parks a little more, including tennis courts and basketball courts, but not including playgrounds. She noted that there will be signs in place that describe proper social distancing practices and hand sanitizer stations installed at entrances to all of the sports court areas. Chief O'Connor noted that people are mostly being compliant and respectful of each other. Ms. Rainey noted that families are not educated around the fact that they shouldn't be allowing their children to participate in pickup games, suggesting guidance be given. Ms. Hodges stated that the Town

has put signs up and sent out messages to the community about best practices, noting that the information is included on the Town's webpage under the COVID-19 information banner. Mr. Johnston suggested putting signage around the structures at the elementary schools.

Ms. Bout questioned if there would be concerns about ramifications of opening up the school fields. Ms. Rask stated that her concern would be who would be policing the areas. Ms. Hodges stated that the fields have to be declared playable by the Parks Department and the Recreation Dept would issue the permits for youth sports groups. Ms. Rask noted that DPH stated that youth sports guidance is coming soon and Ms. Hodges noted that she heard that baseball is allowed for practices in groups of 5 or less for batting or infield practices. Ms. Rainey noted her concern of unorganized groups coming to play at the school areas. Chief O'Connor noted the importance of kids getting outside for mental health reasons. Mr. Model questioned if the schools have to go through the Town to administer school use and Dr. Hunter stated that there is property adjacent to the school properties that the Town oversees, noting that they would like to stay on the same page. She stated that the issue is to determine the role of the schools and Town in enforcing guidelines and social distancing. Ms. Bout noted that there is no guidance yet for organized groups and that the SC needs to determine if it feels comfortable opening school grounds for casual use.

The SC discussed opening the fields for casual use and Mr. Johnston noted his concern for granting permits and then having a COVID-19 resurgence and Ms. Bout suggested possibly rolling it out gradually, first at the elementary schools. Chief O'Connor stated that he didn't feel opening them at the same time would have a big impact. The SC agreed on opening the school fields for casual use, with the same guidelines that the Town has in place.

Dr. Hunter stated that there are multiple summer usages of the schools, noting that the programs have moved to remote, so the buildings are available. She stated that Concord Recreation is eager to meet a need for child care and activities for the summer and are hoping to use CCHS and Alcott. She noted that there are some requests for the buildings from organizations that do not have guidance yet for opening, such as Star Camps. She recommended supporting the request from Concord Recreation, noting that the SC could revisit once other guidelines become available. Ms. Rask noted that the Star program is a licensed camp and would need access to bathrooms and facilities. Ms. Hodges explained the social distancing requirements of camps during Phase 2 and 3. Dr. Hunter stated that she feels a slow and steady approach is the way to go, recommending supporting Concord Recreation.

Dr. Hunter stated that the national environment has grown very tense racially, also noting that a CCHS student posted an inappropriate video with racial slurs. She noted all of the riots occurring in Boston, stating that many of the CPS/CCRSD families live in Boston. She stated that Mr. Mastrullo and she met with the incidence management team and high school staff on Monday, noting that individual connections have been made across all 5 schools in the last 36 hours. She stated that the Center for Parents and Teachers has shifted the focus of an upcoming event to a race-based focus. Dr. Hunter stated she is looking into meeting with Boston families to offer willingness to name challenges and also around holding sessions for families to talk about race and tensions to open dialogue. Dr. Hunter stated that she finds everything happening unacceptable and has been working with Concord Police regarding consequences. She stated that she is committed to using this as an opportunity of making CPS and CCRSD a better place for families of all backgrounds. Mr. Booth commended Dr. Hunter for her message the previous night, noting that racism in the schools is shocking, yet expected for her to inform us that there is racism within the schools, also thanking Dr. Hunter for acknowledging that there is much work to be done around racism. Ms. Bout thanked Dr. Hunter for her acknowledgement as well and voicing her support. Mr. Johnston stated that there is a difference between being nonracist and anti-racist, noting that it's time to be anti-racist. Ms. Mostoufi noted that the CCHS students are responding to the racism by attending protests both online and in person, thanking Dr. Hunter for all of the resources she provided for families to use in talking with their children on the topic of racism.

Dr. Hunter stated that the Commissioner stated that there will be directives by June 15th, noting that this should complement the timing of the Task Force.

### VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Retirement Incentive Plan. Dr. Hunter stated that Peabody Public Schools is offering a \$7,000 incentive for teachers with 20 years in the system. She stated that a soft poll of the unions brought low levels of interest for this year and moderate to low for next year at CCTA, but strong interest for a year from now at CTA. She recommended not pursuing an incentive plan now, but revisiting it in the rebuilding stage of the FY22 budget. The SC agreed that there

was too much uncertainty now to pursue an incentive plan. Dr. Hunter thanked the unions for getting feedback so quickly.

- B. FY21 Budget Updates. Dr. Hunter stated that Mr. Stanton is re-building the budgets. Mr. Johnston stated that Carlisle is voting a 1/12th budget, with the expectation of a special town meeting in the fall.
- C. Superintendent Evaluation. Ms. Mostoufi stated that was hoping to share the SC's summative evaluation at the June 16th SC meeting, noting that completed individual evaluations would need to be in by June 5th so she can create a composite evaluation of them by June 11th. Ms. Rainey and Mr. Johnston noted their concern with the timeline. After discussion, the SC agreed to complete individual evaluations by June 9th, for them to be summarized by June 19th, and presented at the June 23rd SC meeting. The SC reviewed the DESE rubric, agreeing upon the process for how they would be completing the evaluations.

Mr. Model left the meeting.

### VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. A motion was made by Mr. Booth, for CCSC and CSC, seconded by Ms. Rainey, for CCSC and CSC, that the Concord School Committee and Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee will enter into Executive Session under Purpose 2 of the Open Meeting Law: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and Purpose 3 of the Open Meeting Law: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, and not return to Open Session. The motion passed by roll call: Mostoufi, aye; Rainey, aye (for both); Booth, aye (for both); Johnston, aye (for both); Bout, aye (for both) and Open Session ended at 7:00 PM.

# VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Rainey. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin E. Higgins

Approved: 6/30/20

Abbreviations:

CCHS Concord-Carlisle High School

CCRSD Concord-Carlisle Regional School District

CCSC Concord-Carlisle Regional District School Committee

CCTA Concord-Carlisle Teachers' Association

CMS Concord Middle School

CMSBC Concord Middle School Building Committee

CPS Concord Public Schools
CSC Concord School Committee
ESY Extended School Year

MIAA Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association

OPM Owners Project Manager SC School Committee